

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-19 are amended for clarity, consistency, and to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the January 31, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' record of that interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The specification is amended to correct a typographical error at paragraph [0037]. Fig. 4 has been amended to more clearly identify retaining clip 111, refill junction 102, and face with capillary ribs 115. The amendment to Fig. 4 is supported in the specification by at least paragraph [0037]. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 and 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 15-19 have been amended to clarify the terms identified in the Office Action. Claims 2-14 have also been amended for clarity. At the interview, the Examiner agreed that these amendments clarify the claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 8, 15-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Hideto (JP409104118A). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hideto fails to disclose a refill junction or a refillable fluid reservoir having at least one capillary channel, as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Hideto also fails to disclose a method to capture fluid spilled when refilling a refillable fluid reservoir involving the wicking of spilled fluid by capillary action, as recited in independent claim 15.

Hideto fails to disclose the features of independent claims 1, 8 and 15 because Hideto does not disclose capillary channels, or disclose the wicking of fluid by capillary action. Hideto discloses the absorption of spilled fluid with ink absorbing member 14, which consists

of printing head absorbing member 140 and internal pressure absorbing part 141. See Hideto at Abstract. The absorbing member 140 and absorbing part 141 of Hideto are pads that absorb spilled ink, and these pads are not capillary channels or capable of wicking spilled fluid by capillary action.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SWA/jam

Attachment:
Replacement Fig. 4

Date: February 7, 2006

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 4 and replaces the original sheet with Replacement Fig. 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet